We Claim:

1. A method of developing product orders comprising:

developing product variation configuration information through customer interaction outside of a conventional enterprise resource planning application;

storing said product variation configuration information in at least one table;

importing the table into the conventional enterprise resource planning application; and

performing product order related processing with the conventional enterprise resource planning application in response to said imported table.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the developing step includes allowing the customer to interact with a web-based application.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the developing step includes allowing the customer to interact with a computer over the Internet.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the developing step includes providing a multi-level product configuration function, and wherein the conventional enterprise resource planning application provides a native variant configurator that provides only single single product configuration.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one table comprises at least one configuration table and at least one control table.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the conventional enterprise resource planning application includes a variant configurator, a router, a bill of materials exploder, a costing function, and a material master.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the developing step comprises developing a table in a format that is directly compatible with the conventional enterprise resource planning application.

8. A method of developing customized product information comprising:

(a) providing an enterprise resource planning application including a native variant configurator having user interaction capabilities;

(b) facilitating interaction between a customer and a further, non-native variant configurator to develop at least one configuration table; and

(c) importing the configuration table into the enterprise resource planning application such that product configuration information used by the enterprise resource planning application is developed using the non-native variant configurator rather than the native variant configurator.

9. A system for developing product information comprising:

an enterprise resource planning application;

a front end interface external to the enterprise resource planning application, the external front end interface being accessible via a network and developing at least one custom table; and

an importer that reads data from the custom table and imports said data into the enterprise resource planning application for further processing thereby.